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BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF
Medical Officer of Health
FOR
1942

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer,
Medical Officer—Maternity and Child Welfare



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LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE CHATHAM COUNCIL

The Mayor

(Councillor J. T. Hawes, J.P.)

The Deputy Mayor

(Alderman H. J. Cloake)

Alderman W. J. Webb, J.P.

Alderman F. G. Luff

Alderman E. G. Maynard

Alderman R. F. Brain, C.C.

Alderman F. H. Lawrence

Councillor H. J. Stearne

Councillor Mrs. F. M. Freeman

Councillor W. F. Hollands

Councillor M. Packer

Councillor Canon T. Ryan

Councillor G. B. Silver

Councillor W. Heath

Councillor W. Blackmore

Councillor F. O. Harris

Councillor G. W. Hitches

Councillor A. E. Lake

Councillor W. T. Davis

Councillor J. Presnail

Councillor R. Homden

Councillor L. E. Shave

Councillor G. A. Rosenberg

Councillor E. J. Whittaker

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

This consists of the whole of the Members of the Council.
(Chairman—Alderman F. LAWRENCE)

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

This consists of the Members of the Public Health Committee with the following co-optative members:—Mesdames E. M. CROOKS, B. A. LEWIS, A. M. LUCAS, H. J. STEARNE, J.P., L. STAYLAERS, and Rev. VIOLET HEDGER.

(Chairman—Councillor Mrs. F. M. FREEMAN.)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health :

SHEILA M. M. NIALL, L.M.S.S.A.

Dental Surgeon :

WILLIAM C. GRIFFITHS, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

THOMAS HOWARD (a) (b).

Senior District Sanitary Inspector :

A. W. R. TURNBULL (a) (b).

District Sanitary Inspectors :

W. JOHNSON (a). J. W. I. WHITEHOUSE (a) (b) (f).

Senior Health Visitor :

Miss P. L. REGAN (c) (d) (e).

Health Visitors :

Miss E. LEAHY (c) (d) (e) Miss R. TIPPLE (c) (d) (e)
Mrs. F. E. GAFFNEY (d). Miss J. M. MOSS (c)

Chief Clerk :

H. L. CLARK (s).

Acting Chief Clerk :

Miss V. F. M. JENKINS.

Clerks :

Miss E. ROGERS (s). A. C. STRIKE.
Miss B. WILLIS. Miss P. THIRGOOD.

Clinic Clerk :

Miss P. HAKEMAN.

Dental Attendant :

Miss J. E. ROBERTS.

- (a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (b) Meat Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) State Registered Nurse.
- (d) State Certified Midwife.
- (e) Health Visitor's Certificate.
- (f) Sanitary Science Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (s) Serving in H.M. Forces.

Borough of Chatham

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for 1942. This, in accordance with the Government instructions, is in a very abbreviated form and no figures from which the total population could be calculated are allowed to be inserted.

Generally the health of the Borough has been excellent, the only black spot being an increase in the Infantile Mortality, which is more fully dealt with in the body of the report.

It is pleasing to note that neither the incidence nor the mortality from Tuberculosis has shown any increase and certainly there is no evidence to suggest any lower state of nutrition amongst the people. In fact, what evidence we have suggests that the majority of the people are better fed in the true sense of the word than they were in peace-time.

The incidence of infectious diseases was low. Measles and Whooping Cough were moderately widespread, whereas Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were fortunately relatively rare.

It should be noted that 2,399 children were immunised against Diphtheria, a far bigger number than has ever been done before. The propaganda to receive this excellent result was by the personal contact of the Health Visitors, powerfully reinforced by the excellent broadcast appeal by Sir Wilson Jameson, Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health.

The year saw the inception of War Day Nurseries in Chatham. Whether they are necessary for the production of munitions of war is not for me to say, but from a purely Public Health point of view such nurseries give rise to very mixed feelings.

The incidence of infectious diseases such as Measles, Whooping Cough, etc., has certainly been much higher in children attending

the War Day Nursery than in the rest of the population. I cannot see any means of preventing this and such diseases are by no means trivial in very young children, nor can it possibly be good for the health of the mother or child to get up at 5.30 a.m. and not get back home till 7 p.m. and then do the housework. On the other hand the children appear happy, are well and scientifically fed and taught the elements of civilised life in a community. The experiment will have to be watched most carefully before any recommendation for the Post-War continuation of such Nurseries can be given. That they will continue I certainly believe, but in a very much modified form.

To all my staff, considerably reduced by the calls of war, I would tender my most grateful thanks for the loyal and conscientious manner in which they have fulfilled every task given them.

To you Sir, Madam and Gentlemen, I would place on record my appreciation of the support and consideration you have always given me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chatham.

9th August, 1943.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	4,356
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£275,371
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,042

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	19.03
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			14.5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)
Puerperal Sepsis	—
Other Puerperal Causes	4.2

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	80.76
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	76.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	150

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, sputum, blood, milk, water or other suspected material are carried out in the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

Chemical examinations are done by the County Analyst.

There is no delay in sending results.

A.R.P. CASUALTY SERVICES

A team was entered was the S.E. Region Commissioner's Cup and did very well. The First Aid Party (Leader: Miss Baker), consisting of 4 women and 1 man, were particularly good and unofficially were considered to be the best First Aid Party in the

Region. I feel confident that but for an outbreak of influenza among the First Aid Post team we would have won the cup.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

1. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

(a) Ante Natal Clinic. TUESDAY, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

THURSDAY, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

(b) Children under 5 years of age.

MONDAYS 2—4.30 p.m.

TUESDAYS 2—4.30 p.m.

FRIDAYS 2—4.30 p.m.

(c) Dental. By appointment daily.

(d) A combined Child Welfare and Ante Natal Clinic is held at the Methodist Hall, Walderslade, on the last Monday of each month.

2. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

WEDNESDAYS 2—4.30 p.m.

3. SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

(a) Minor Ailments and Medical Inspection.

MONDAYS

WEDNESDAYS 9—9.30 a.m.

FRIDAYS

(b) Dental. Daily by appointment, 9—4.30 p.m.

(c) Refraction. One session each week by appointment.

(d) Medical Inspection at Schools. Four sessions per week by appointment.

4. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY, 13 NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER

TUESDAYS 2 p.m.—3 p.m. and 5 p.m.—6 p.m.

FRIDAYS 9.30 a.m.—10.30 a.m.

5. TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES, 36 NEW ROAD, ROCHESTER

TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS for consultations.

Daily for treatment.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are provided by the Council and the Education Committee.

Nos. 4 and 5 are provided by the Kent County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.

Beds are available at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and the County Hospital for acute illness. If convalescent care is needed it is secured at a suitable institution and a Cot Fund is available.

The Salvation Army and the Rochester Diocesan Society receive unmarried mothers in their homes.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

The requirements of this Act, which extends to children under the age of 9 years, who are received for reward, necessitates frequent inspection to see that the premises are suitable, and that the children are properly cared for.

Number of children on the register on 1st January, 1942 ...	7
Number of children on the register on 31st December, 1942	4
Number of reception notices received	4
Number of removal notices	
(1) to other addresses in the Borough ...	3
(2) to addresses outside the Borough ...	2
Number of visits paid by the Health Visitors	14

VISITS

Month	Total Home Visits	Child Welfare 0—1			Ante Natal	
		1st	Sub.	1—5	1st	Sub.
Jan.	493	59	119	245	7	5
Feb.	531	78	155	202	15	6
March	603	65	169	224	7	3
April	535	70	143	216	7	5
May	644	80	186	218	4	7
June	751	83	206	268	5	8
July	504	56	174	163	7	3
August	472	63	160	165	2	4
Sept.	672	85	288	256	6	3
Oct.	306	49	118	87	1	—
Nov.	522	51	199	200	1	2
Dec.	530	44	216	181	—	—
Total	6563	783	2133	2425	62	46

CLINICS

Month	Child Welfare				Ante Natal		Post Natal
	Total 0—1	Attend. 1—5	New Cases 0—1 1—5		1st Attend.	Subs.	
Jan.	194	47	26	43	26	34	—
Feb.	198	48	42	6	32	35	2
Mar.	357	75	44	9	27	42	—
April	306	59	37	4	21	27	—
May	338	63	32	4	34	44	2
June	395	71	26	14	16	41	—
July	367	63	42	9	35	66	3
Aug.	365	45	23	1	24	39	1
Sept.	326	63	38	3	28	49	1
Oct.	261	86	20	5	22	39	—
Nov.	175	48	19	3	32	24	2
Dec.	243	53	33	12	13	26	—
Total	3525	721	382	74	310	466	11

DENTAL TREATMENT

Below is Mr. Griffiths' Report:—

ADULTS.

Number treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Fillings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Consultations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

INFANTS.

Number treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Extractions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Number of gas cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Fillings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Consultations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

The numbers this year are substantially similar to those of the preceding year.

WILLIAM C. GRIFFITHS,
Dental Surgeon.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1942.

The rate of Infantile Mortality (80.76) has again risen badly compared to 1941 (53.37) and the last complete year of peace, 1938 (64.1). The certified cause of death in very young infants is notoriously unreliable, so many conditions can cause the feeble flicker of life to be extinguished, but it would appear that the increased mortality comes from two causes:—

- (1) INFANTILE DIARRHŒA. We had fourteen deaths from this cause in 1942. Some of them were definitely due to an outbreak of Sonne dysentery which occurred in the Spring and early Summer. Other causes would appear to be a decrease again in breast feeding and possibly the pressure of war conditions leading to less care in the cleanliness of feeding bottles, etc.
- (2) PREMATURE BIRTH. The reasons for which are very obscure, but the number so certified was double that for 1941 and much higher than we have ever had. War strain, a tendency to continue work too long, the difficulty in obtaining domestic help, may all be contributory causes. I have had no evidence of deliberate attempts to produce abortion, but such evidence is seldom available even when the mischief is widespread. It is certainly very disappointing to find our Infantile Mortality rising so much whilst that for the country as a whole is the lowest on record, and I can only assure you the subject is and has been for some time engaging my serious attention.

So far this year (up to the end of July, 1943) I am pleased to say the Infantile Mortality rate shows a welcome fall to about 50.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths occurring during pregnancy and child birth are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health.

The Council's arrangements for supervising the health of children from birth to 5 years of age and of expectant and nursing mothers are as follows:—

1. The visiting of children in their homes.
2. The provision of sterilised outfits.
3. Dental treatment.

4. Visiting of cases of Puerperal Sepsis and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
5. An Ante-Natal Clinic.
6. Investigation of Maternal Deaths.
7. Provision of Home Helps.
8. Provision of Consultants in difficult Maternity cases.
9. Treatment of Minor Ailments such Impetigo, discharging ears, etc.
10. Hospital Treatment of more complicated cases.
11. Maternity beds at the Royal Naval and Marine Maternity Home and the County Hospital. Fees are according to patients' means.

INSPECTION OF WOMEN'S CONVENIENCES

The Senior Health Visitor paid 12 visits for this purpose.

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER

RAINFALL DURING 1942.

I am indebted to A. E. Watkins, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., for the following figures taken at Luton Waterworks.

Rain Gauge:—Diameter of Funnel, 5 ins.

Height of top above ground, 3 ft. 0 ins.

Height of ground above sea level, 88 ft.

Month	44 years' average 1898-1941	Fall in 1942	Monthly totals
January	2.09	2.28	2.28
February	1.75	1.07	3.35
March	1.75	2.72	6.07
April	1.91	1.38	7.45
May	1.76	2.92	10.37
June	1.79	0.68	11.05
July	2.24	2.53	13.58
August	2.08	2.10	15.68
September	1.71	2.70	18.38
October	2.59	3.05	21.43
November	2.81	1.66	23.09
December	2.41	2.17	25.26
	24.89	25.26	

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

The water supply is from deep wells in the chalk. Experience here and elsewhere shows that such water is liable to pollution through the contamination of the surface of the gathering area, in this case from the top of Blue Bell Hill to the Medway. In this area are situated many houses not connected to the main drainage, but relying on cesspools, most of which are by no means watertight. There are, therefore, obvious possibilities of pollution of the water supply through fissures, etc., which are known to exist in all chalk formations. It has been necessary therefore to chlorinate the water supply to ensure an adequate degree of safety, and this has given rise to complaints regarding the taste.

Every endeavour is made to obviate this taste as far as possible and at any rate it is better to have occasionally some slight taste than to run the risk of a typhoid epidemic.

The water supply is common to the three towns and in conjunction with the Medical Officers of Health of Rochester and Gillingham samples are taken of each source of supply six times a month for Bacteriological Analysis. In all cases the treated water has been shown to be of a very high state of Bacteriological purity.

I have to thank the Water Company for their whole-hearted co-operation in securing a safe water for human consumption.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Progress is still being maintained with the abolition of cesspools and the connection of W.C.'s to the new main drainage system. Where any difficulty is encountered action is taken under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby the owner of any cesspool which leaks or overflows is compelled to carry out such works as will obviate such leakage or overflowing. The cheapest and easiest method is of course to connect up to the main sewer. The scarcity of available labour is making this course of action increasingly difficult.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

General public cleansing of street gullies, household and trade refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department. Disposal is controlled by dipping.

SCHOOLS, SANITARY CONDITION AND WATER SUPPLY

The Sanitary Condition and Water Supply in schools have been maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year. The Chief Sanitary Inspector makes periodical visits for this purpose.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I beg to submit my report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and Sanitary Depot for the year ended 31st December, 1942.

DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS TO THE CORPORATION SEWERS

During the year a further 13 premises were connected to the Corporation Sewers.

CESSPOOL WORK

913 complaints of choked drains were received, and it was found possible to clear 829 drains from obstruction. Overflowing cesspools made up the remainder of the complaints.

There was a slight increase during the year in the work of emptying cesspools, this being occasioned by the frequent emptying of a cesspool taking the drainage of a canteen supplying meals to H.M. Forces. Some 231 cesspools were emptied, this necessitating the contents of 163 cesspools being pumped direct into the foul sewers, 1,240 tins of solids conveyed to the Joint Sewerage Board, water and 37,600 gallons of sewage transported from outlying houses to the nearest sewers.

The sum of £70 was received for the work carried out.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

There are 6 registered cow-keepers with 13 cowsheds in the Borough. On the Register are also:—

- 1 Producer of Accredited Milk.
- 3 Wholesale Producers.
- 27 Retail Purveyors of Milk, of which 15 are situated outside the Borough Boundary.

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER AND MILK.

The following samples were collected for analysis:—

- 39 Water Samples.
- 9 Milk Samples.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Two slaughterhouses are still in use by the Ministry of Food for slaughter of animals for human consumption. Close co-operation exists between the Slaughterhouse Manager and this Department, and once again all animals slaughtered were inspected. The inspection and condemnation of foodstuffs other than meat has again taken up a considerable portion of the Sanitary Inspectors' time and the issue of official condemnation certificates is beginning to weigh heavy on the clerical staff. The necessity of some central organ-

isation of the Ministry of Food for the splitting up and sorting out of official condemnation certificates is becoming more apparent each day. I am sorry to again record the desirability of more care in the handling and transport of meat.

CARCASES INSPECTED

			Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
1939	..	..	712	925	743	6267	9332	17979
1940	..	..	2204	978	1151	18896	1637	24886
1941	..	..	2066	707	1187	12462	901	17323
1942	..	..	1322	479	520	8235	1153	11709

UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED, 1942

The total amount of meat and other food destroyed was 23 tons 14 cwt. 0 qrs. 11 lbs., of which 12 tons 10 cwt. 3 qrs. 25 lbs. was affected by Tuberculosis.

Bovine Carcases and Offal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Calf	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	4
Pig	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	4
Sheep	..	..	..	...	...	...	...	58
Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	229
Livers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	256
Plucks	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Stomachs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Intestines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Hearts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Tongues	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Skirts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Udders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Spleens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.

Home-killed meat (listed above)	...	16	19	0	11
Portions and trimmings (including forequarters and hind-quarters)	...	2	5	1	21
Other Food	...	1	12	1	3
Fish	...		10	0	3
Tinned Foods	...	2	7	1	1

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected	1322	479	520	8235	1153	11709
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	10	1	58	2	74
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	89	90	3	103	79	364
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	6.9	20.9	0.8	1.9	7.0	3.7
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	6	23	3	0	2	34
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	61	137	2	0	38	238
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	5.0	33.4	1.0	—	3.4	2.3

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

One rat catcher is employed on the staff of the Sanitary Depot.

There has been a 50% increase in the number of rats caught during the year and this success is largely attributable to the work of the rat catcher. The area around the river, the shopping centre, and the Corporation refuse tip are the chief source of infestation. During the latter part of the year propaganda on the cinema screen was tried, but its value was not very conclusive—no increase being noted in the number of applications for the services of the rat catcher. Most complaints from business premises usually show that the infestations are not of recent origin, and that it is the late choice of the two evils—rats, or the local authority intruding on business premises. Careful record has been kept of all black rats caught, and so far none have been found more than 400 yards from the river. Specimens are sent to the laboratory for examination and all proved free of *B. pestis*.

No charges are made for the services of the Rat Catcher.

		Rats Caught			Visits
		Black	Brown	Total	
Dwelling Houses ...	2	106	108	613	
Shops and Stores ...	642	349	991	2892	
Corporation Refuse Shoot	—	1330	1330	134	
Farms	—	351	351	7	
		<u>644</u>	<u>2136</u>	<u>2780</u>	<u>3646</u>

Days or part-days worked by rat catcher ...	...	283
Poison Baits laid ...	...	3060
Varnish Boards laid ...	...	797
New Applications ...	...	103

BAKEHOUSES

There are 16 Bakehouses in the Borough, 4 of which are not in use.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Particulars of all cases notified and removed to Hospital will be found in Section F of this report. The numbers of loads of bedding disinfected was 113 and 67 rooms were disinfected. Library books from 36 premises were disinfected.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

There are 3 common lodging houses and 8 houses let in lodgings on the register.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are 23 Fish Friers' premises on the register, 10 of which are temporarily out of use.

MORTUARY

The following bodies were removed to the public mortuary:—

Adult Males ...	...	13
Adult Females ...	...	7
Male Children ...	...	2
Female Children ...	...	2

Post mortems were carried out on 16 bodies; 2 bodies were buried at the expense of the Parish.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

There was one case of suspected Swine Fever reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. This was confirmed.

CATTLE TUBERCULOSIS ORDER

No cows from herds in the Borough were dealt with. Several other cases from outside the Borough were brought into the Town for slaughter and the carcasses inspected and dealt with. All cows slaughtered in the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses in the Borough and found affected with Generalised Tuberculosis are reported to the County Medical Officer for his information.

VERMIN.

The following were fumigated for vermin:—

ROOMS.

Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	148
Other „	...	...	...	...	...	219
Wardens' Posts	...	...	...	...	...	4
Public A.R.P. Shelter	...	...	...	...	...	1

LOADS OF BEDDING.

Council Houses (including scabies)	...	...	...	...	63
Other Houses (including scabies)	...	...	...	...	117
Firewatchers.	...	...	...	...	8
Home Guard	...	...	...	...	1
A.R.P.	...	...	...	...	23
N.F.S.	...	...	...	...	7

LOADS OF FURNITURE 2

Too great a proportion of the general public is still not vermin conscious, a fact which indirectly hinders their war effort.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at 31st December, 1942, was 23. Many of these are now serving in H.M. Forces.

PIG SWILL

The amount of pig swill collected during the year was 97 tons, for which an amount of £145 10s. was received.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year 155 samples of food and drugs were taken as per the following table:—

ARTICLE	No. of Samples.		Result of Analysis.				
	Formal.	Inform.	Adulterated.		Fair Quality.		Genuine Good Quality.
			Formal.	Inform.	Formal.	Inform.	
Milk	77	13	3	2	4	—	81
Sterilized Milk ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Salmon (tin) ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meat Roll	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Butter	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Blancmange	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Vinegar	6	3	3	3	—	—	3
Coffee	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cakes	—	11	—	—	—	—	2
							Traces of Mineral Oil.
Processed Egg ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Whisky	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Margarine	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pepper	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anti-Gas Ointment							
No. 2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Peanuts	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Beer	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bread Crumbs ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Self-raising Flour	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Quinine and Iron							
Tonic	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Beef Cubes	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meat & Vegetable							
Soup	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dessert Powder ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pancake & Fritter							
Powder	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rice Pudding							
Powder	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Green Pea Soup ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Luncheon Sausage	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sulphur Tablets	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Batter Flour .. .	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Prunes	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Strawberry and							
Gooseberry Jam	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Saccharin Tablets	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Beef Sausages ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Iodised Blood							
Mixture	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Coffee Extract ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pickles	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Sun Pat Peanut							
Butter	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
MacLean's							
Stomach Powder	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lard	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Vegetable Hot Pot	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

Prosecutions in respect of adulterated samples of vinegar and saccharin tablets were instituted, the one in respect of saccharin tablets being undertaken by the Ministry of Food, and a conviction obtained and the vendor fined £2.

Two summonses were taken out against the vendors of the adulterated vinegar but were dismissed. The vendors in turn summoned the wholesalers and were successful. Fines amounting to £3, and £5 costs, were imposed.

The adulterated milk samples were all one case where the appeal to the cow samples were certified as 3.3% deficient in fat. This farmer had been in the habit of keeping separate the milk from each cowshed, but when bulked the result of a sample was certified as genuine.

The informal milk samples were from schools and it was found that the supply had not been thoroughly mixed by the teachers before distribution took place.

NOTICES SERVED

During the year 216 Informal Notices and 78 Statutory Notices were served.

VISITS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR

Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Drainage and subsequent visits				...	...	...	...	426
Repairs and subsequent visits	...			...	...	...	...	1824
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	630
Slaughterhouses		...	...	...	...	...	...	1200
Houses let in Lodgings			...	...	...	...	...	35
Common Lodging Houses			...	...	...	...	...	13
Fish Friers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Gut Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Houses, 1st Visit		...	...	...	...	...	...	467
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts	...			...	...	...	...	54
Market	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Courts and Alleys		...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Infectious Diseases		...	...	...	...	...	...	92
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138

Overcrowding	12
Bedding and Disinfection	99
Unsound Food and Cold Store	544
Food Shops	377
Schools	12
Drains Tested (New)	—
Cesspools	100
Verminous Premises	362
Council House Applicants	52
Rats Order	439
Gipsy Encampment	103
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations	97
Shops	54
A.R.P.	742
Water Samples	53
Food and Drugs—Samples	279
Interviews (Owners, Builders, etc.)	301
Total	9217

NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors. Much difficulty is being experienced in getting nuisances abated owing to present abnormal conditions.

Accumulations of Refuse, etc., removed	9
Broken W.C. Pans replaced	6
Ceilings whitened	3
Ceilings repaired	23
Cesspool Covers repaired or sealed	1
Cesspools filled in	—
Chimney Pots replaced	1
Chimney Stacks repaired	4
Choked Drains cleared	—
Coppers repaired or rebuilt	11
Door Locks or Fasteners repaired	1
Doors or Frames repaired	12
Doors provided or renewed	—
Draining of old buildings relaid	—
Drains relaid	19
Drains ventilated	—
Firegrates renewed or repaired	17
Floors repaired	10

Flushing Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
Flues repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gutters or Downpipes cleared	...	...	...	...	...	13
Gutters or Downpipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Inspection Covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	—
Inspection Pits provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Interiors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Keeping of Animals in unfit state	...	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	59
Sashcords Repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	21
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sink Waste Pipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
Stair-treads or Steps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	29
Damp Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Windows, Window Frames, Sashes or Sills repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
W.C. Seats or Risers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. Structures rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	5
Yard Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous Bedding or Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	87

THOS. HOWARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Chatham.

18th August, 1943.

Section D**HOUSING****1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	467
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1824
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation	—

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	193
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	78
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	41
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
fit 	—

NEW HOUSES DURING 1942

(a) The total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during 1942 was:—

By private persons	...	...	...	...	...	—
By the Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) The total number of houses erected during 1942 was:—

By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	—
By the Corporation	...	...	...	...	—

(c) With State Assistance under the Housing Act:—

By the Local Authority (included in the above total (b))	...	...	...	...	...	—
By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	—

CLEARANCE AREAS

Areas taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Houses included...	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	257

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

326 houses were reported up to the end of 1942.

Of these—206 were demolished.

58 were rendered fit.

8 were closed under undertaking not to re-let.

21 were not yet demolished.

Parts of three houses have been subject to closing orders. Action not completed during 1942—30 cases. There have been 38 individual houses reconditioned by informal action.

Section E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This is a very important duty of a Public Health Department and much of the Sanitary Inspectors' time is occupied in visiting slaughterhouses and premises where food is prepared or sold.

Particulars of the number of Cowsheds, Registered Cowkeepers, Purveyors of Milk, etc., are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

POTTED AND PRESERVED MEAT

The supervision of this class of business is important. Ready cooked and prepared foods are being increasingly used by the public and a close watch is kept on such premises. They are registered under a local act.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Particulars are included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD

These examinations are conducted by the Kent County Council.

NUTRITION

The general level of nutrition was undoubtedly fully maintained and again no signs of Vitamin deficiency diseases were found.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1942

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	8	8	—
Scarlet Fever	38	21	—
Pneumonia	32	5	27
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	16	16	—
Erysipelas	7	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .	5	3	1*
Malaria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis .	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	6	6	—
Whooping Cough	219	—	2
Measles	417	3	—

* Premature Birth.

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORIES

	Pos.	Neg.	Total
Diphtheria Swabs	7	—	—
Tubercle Sputum	40	—	—
Hairs for Ringworm ..	—	—	—
Serum for Typhoid ..	—	—	—
Fæces for Typhoid ..	—	—	—

SUPPLY OF ANTI-TOXIN

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is kept at the Public Health Department, Elm House, 15 New Road Avenue, Chatham, and at the Central Fire Station, Railway Street, and is supplied free of charge to medical practitioners. It can be obtained at any hour of the day or night.

The number of units issued during 1942 was 200,000.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

The Clinic first opened at the end of 1929 and is held every Wednesday.

New Cases (1942)	...	...	...	...	...	2480
Immunised	...	...	...	...	...	2399
Attendances	...	...	...	...	...	4916

The following table shows the numbers and ages of the new cases:—

1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-6 years	6-7 years	7-8 years	8-9 years	9-10 years	10-11 years	11-12 years	12-13 years	13-14 years	14-15 years
294	193	196	178	166	184	176	195	203	199	178	169	127	22

The yearly figures are as follows:—

Year	Total New Cases	Total Immunised	Total Attendances
1930	432	388	2182
1931	614	560	2716
1932	575	561	2819
1933	459	405	2295
1934	392	359	1944
1935	526	482	2271
1936	415	395	2049
1937	398	381	1773
1938	138	129	775
1939	80	80	176
1940	17	—	17
1941	583	514	1097
1942	2480	2399	4916

ENTERIC FEVER

There were no cases notified.

SMALL POX

There were no cases notified.

VACCINATION

Approximately 50% of the children born during the year were successfully vaccinated.

INFLUENZA

There were two deaths from Influenza.

CANCER

The facilities for diagnosis and treatment are General Practitioners, the County and Voluntary Hospitals.

The total number of deaths was 35 males and 35 females.

VENEREAL DISEASE

The treatment Centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36 New Road, Rochester, and is provided by the Kent County Council.

I am indebted to H. Nicol, Esq., F.R.C.S., the Medical Officer in charge, for the following particulars:—

New Patients	Chatham					Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	25	18	43
Soft Sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	27	13	40
Non-venereal	28	11	39
						80	42	122

Total number of new patients from all areas served ... 461

Average number of Chatham patients under daily treatment or observation during

1942 ... 157 86 243

Discharges (all districts served)

Discharged cured:						Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	37	15	52
Soft Sore	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	101	53	154
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	...	147	55	202
Defaulted before final test of cure:								
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	9
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	12	3	15
Defaulted before completion of treatment:								
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	21	7	28
Gonorrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	22	—	22
Total attendances of Chatham patients						...	...	2378
Total attendances all districts served						...	...	10604

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
5 1 N/R	2	2	3	—	—	1 Died Premature Birth

TUBERCULOSIS

Table showing new cases and Mortality during 1942.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1
5—15 years	2	1	5	5	—	1	1	2
15—25 years	5	12	3	2	3	1	1	1
25—35 years	8	2	1	—	4	3	—	—
35—45 years	9	4	1	2	4	3	—	1
45—55 years	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—
55—65 years	3	2	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 years up	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	34	23	11	11	22	8	3	5

NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS**PULMONARY**

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	57
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	37
Hospital and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	20
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	—
Transferred from districts	...	...	...	...	...	—

NON-PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	22
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hospitals and Poor Law Institutions	...	...	...	...	...	21
Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	...	...	...	—
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	—

CLASSIFICATION OF NON-PULMONARY CASES

Glandular	...	...	...	...	...	11
Meninges	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bones and Joints	...	...	...	...	...	3
Abdomen	...	...	...	...	...	5

On January 1st, 1942, there were on the Register:—

			Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	96	58	154
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	25	27	52

On December 31st, 1942, the numbers were:—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	109	71	180
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	34	29	63

The number of cases removed from the Register during 1942 was:—

Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	34
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	7

Two of the above removals were presumed to be cured as there was no record of continued treatment and five years had elapsed in the case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three years in the case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis since the primary notification. Thirty-eight had died and one had left the district.

There was one death from unnotified Tuberculosis.

The notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis received during the year show no significant change over the pre-war figures in spite of war conditions. This is very satisfactory when it is borne in mind that the following circumstances all favourable to infection are present:—

- (1) Increase in overcrowding.
- (2) Poor ventilation owing to black-out.
- (3) Increased strain.
- (4) Plenty of work available leading to T.B. patients neglecting to see a doctor and continuing at work, thereby possibly infecting others.

The death rate which, of course, would show a considerable time lag, also shows no significant change.

